

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 5, 13, 19 and 29 without prejudice

Please amend claims 1, 7, 8, 10, 17, 18, 20-23, 30, 31 and 33 as follows.

Please add the following new claim 36 as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A coin bank comprising:  
a housing;  
a coin separating member including at least one coin receiving aperture;  
a coin sorting member on which said coin separating member is movably supported, said coin sorting member including at least one coin sorting aperture, said coin sorting member being mounted to said housing; and  
a metering tray supported by said housing and positioned adjacent said coin separating member, wherein said metering tray regulates the number of associated coins delivered to said coin separating member; and  
a hopper and wherein said metering tray includes a wall having a channel that receives a portion of said hopper.
2. (Original) The coin bank of claim 1, wherein said metering tray comprises a plurality of walls and an opening, said opening having a width dimensioned to allow only one largest diameter associated coin meant to be sorted by said coin sorting member to pass at a time from said metering tray to said coin separating member.
3. (Original) The coin bank of claim 1, wherein said metering tray comprises a plurality of walls and an opening, wherein said opening is smaller than the combined diameter of two of the smallest diameter ones of the associated coins meant to be sorted by said coin sorting member.
4. (Original) The coin bank of claim 1, further comprising a hopper and wherein said metering tray is mounted to said hopper.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Original) The coin bank of claim 1, wherein said metering tray includes a ramp that urges the associated coins that land on said ramp towards an adjacent floor.

7. (Currently Amended) The coin bank of claim 6, wherein said metering tray includes a wall that is positioned directly adjacent an end of said ramp and adjacent an opening to preclude the associated coins from moving directly from said ramp to said coin separating member.

8. (Currently Amended) The coin bank of claim 1, further comprising a tab to ~~preclude~~ retard more than one of the associated coins from residing in said at least one coin receiving aperture, said tab being mounted to one of said housing, said metering tray and a hopper.

9. (Original) The coin bank of claim 1, wherein said coin separating member includes a toroidal flange extending away from a face of said coin separating member, said toroidal flange including at least one protuberance adjacent said at least one coin receiving aperture.

10. (Currently Amended) A coin bank comprising:  
a housing;  
a coin separating member including at least one coin receiving aperture;  
a coin sorting member on which said coin separating member is supported, said coin sorting member including at least one coin sorting aperture and being mounted to said housing;  
a coin slide mounted to said housing below said coin sorting member; and  
a tray mounted to said housing above said coin sorting member, said tray including a plurality of walls and an opening which limits the number of associated coins passing from said tray to said coin separating member wherein said plurality of walls

includes a floor and a ramp which extends along a length of said floor and is oriented at an acute angle in relation to said floor.

11. (Original) The coin bank of claim 10, wherein said opening in said tray has a width smaller than the combined diameter of two of the smallest diameter associated coins meant to be sorted by said coin sorting member.

12. (Original) The coin bank of claim 10, wherein at least one of said walls of said tray comprises a substantially parabolic shape.

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Original) The coin bank of claim 10, wherein said coin sorting member includes at least one coin sorting aperture having a first width that is dimensioned to allow passage of a first diameter associated coin and a second width that is dimensioned to allow passage of a second diameter associated coin.

15. (Original) The coin bank of claim 10, wherein said coin separating member includes a flange extending away from a face of said coin separating member and a projection on said flange proximal said at least one coin receiving aperture.

16. (Original) The coin bank of claim 15, wherein said coin separating member comprises a wheel.

17. (Currently Amended) The coin bank of claim 10, wherein said tray comprises a tab, said tab having an end located adjacent said coin separating member so as to ~~preclude~~ retard more than one of the associated coins from residing in said coin receiving aperture as said aperture moves past said tab.

18. (Currently Amended) A coin bank comprising:  
a coin sorting assembly; and,

a metering tray for metering the number of associated coins delivered to said coin sorting assembly, said metering tray comprising a plurality of walls defining an opening that limits the number of associated coins exiting said metering tray at any given time, wherein said plurality of walls comprises first and second side walls, a floor and a ramp, wherein said floor and said ramp are located between said first and second side walls, and wherein said ramp is disposed at an acute angle in relation to said floor.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Currently Amended) The coin bank of claim ~~49~~ 36, wherein said at least one coin receiving aperture extends from an inner periphery of the separating wheel to said toroidal flange.

21. (Currently Amended) The coin bank of claim ~~49~~, ~~wherein said~~ 36 further comprising a protuberance located on said separation wheel toroidal flange, wherein said protuberance is positioned toward a leading edge of said at least one coin receiving aperture.

22. (Currently Amended) The coin bank of claim ~~49~~ 36, wherein said wheel housing defines a coin sorting aperture having a first width adapted to allow passage of associated coins of a first diameter and a second width adapted to allow passage of associated coins of a second diameter.

23. (Currently Amended) A coin bank comprising:  
a coin sorting assembly and a metering tray for metering a number of associated coins delivered to said coin sorting assembly, said metering tray comprising:  
a first side wall;  
a second side wall spaced from said first side wall;  
a first end wall connecting said first and second side walls;  
a floor extending between, and connected to, said first end wall and said second side wall;

an aperture defined in said floor;  
a ramp extending between and connected to said floor and said first side wall;  
and  
a blocking wall connected to a first side edge of said ramp and to said first side wall, wherein said blocking wall prevents associated coins in the tray from sliding off said ramp and onto said coin sorting assembly of said coin bank; and,  
a second end wall secured to said first and second side walls.

24. (Previously Presented) The coin bank of claim 23 wherein said first end wall is curved.

25. (Previously Presented) The coin bank of claim 23 wherein said floor angles downwardly from said first end wall towards said aperture.

26. (Previously Presented) The coin bank of claim 25 wherein said ramp is longer adjacent said first side edge thereof than it is adjacent a second side edge thereof.

27. (Previously Presented) The coin bank of claim 23 wherein the associated coins range from a smallest diameter coin to a largest diameter coin and a width of said floor is so dimensioned as to allow only one of the largest diameter coins to rest on said floor adjacent said aperture.

28. (Previously Presented) The coin bank of claim 27 wherein the width of said floor is so dimensioned as to be smaller than the combined diameters of two of the smallest diameter coins.

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Currently Amended) The coin bank of claim 29 23 further comprising a first tab extending away from said second end wall.

31. (Currently Amended) The coin bank of claim 29 23 further comprising a first extension leading from said first side wall to said second end wall and a second extension leading from said second side wall to said second end wall.

32. (Previously Presented) The coin bank of claim 31 further comprising a second tab protruding from said first extension.

33. (Currently Amended) The coin bank of claim 29 23 wherein said second end wall comprises a U-shaped channel.

34. (Previously Presented) The coin bank of claim 23 further comprising a stabilizing member protruding away from a bottom surface of said floor.

35. (Previously Presented) The coin bank of claim 23 wherein the tray is of one piece and comprises a thermoplastic material.

36. (New) A coin bank comprising:

a separating wheel including at least one coin receiving aperture and a toroidal flange extending away from a face of said separating wheel;

a wheel housing on which said separating wheel is rotatably mounted; and,

a coin feeding construction for regulating the number of associated coins delivered to said separating wheel, said coin feeding construction comprising:

a base wall,

a first side wall,

a second side wall, spaced from said first side wall;

a first end wall connected to said first and second side walls; and

a blocking wall connected to one of said first and second side walls and spaced from another of said first and second side walls to define an exit opening in said coin feeding construction.